

§ 10.152 Bona-fide gifts.

Subject to the conditions in § 10.153 of this part, the port director shall pass free of duty and tax any article sent as a bona-fide gift from a person in a foreign country to a person in the United States, provided that the aggregate fair retail value in the country of shipment of such articles received by one person on one day does not exceed \$100 or, in the case of articles sent from a person in the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, \$200. Articles subject to this exemption shall be entered under the informal entry procedures (see subpart C, part 143, and §§ 145.32, 148.12, 148.51, and 148.64, of this chapter). An article is "sent" for purposes of this section if it is conveyed in any manner other than on the person or in the accompanied or unaccompanied baggage of the donor or donee.

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§ 10.153 Conditions for exemption.

Customs officers shall be further guided as follows in determining whether an article or parcel shall be exempted from duty and tax under § 10.151 or § 10.152:

(a) A "bona fide gift" for purposes of § 10.152 is an article formerly owned by a donor (may be a commercial firm) who gave it outright in its entirety to a donee without compensation or promise of compensation. It does not include articles acquired by purchase, barter, promissory exchange, or similar transaction, nor does it include articles said to be "given" in conjunction with a purchase, barter, promissory exchange, or similar transaction, such as a so-called bonus article.

(b) A parcel addressed to a person in the United States from an individual in a foreign country which contains a gift should be clearly marked on the outside to indicate that it contains a gift. Such marking is not conclusive evidence of a gift nor is the absence of such marking conclusive evidence that an article is not a gift. Ordinarily an article not exceeding \$100 in fair retail value in the country of shipment sent from a person in a foreign country to a person in the United States (\$200, in the case of an article sent from a person in the Virgin Islands, Guam, and

American Samoa) will be recognizable as a gift from the nature of the article and obvious facts surrounding the shipment.

(c) A parcel addressed to a person in the United States from a business firm in a foreign country would ordinarily not contain a gift from a donor in the foreign country. When such a parcel in fact contains an article entitled to free entry under § 10.152, the parcel should be clearly marked to indicate that it contains such a gift and a statement to this effect should be enclosed in the parcel.

(d) Consolidated shipments addressed to one consignee shall be treated for purposes of §§ 10.151 and 10.152 as one importation. The foregoing shall not apply to shipments of bona fide gifts consolidated abroad for shipment to the United States when:

(1) The consolidation for shipment to the United States is in a cargo van or similar containerization which is consigned to a common carrier, freight forwarder, freight handler, or other public service agency for distribution of the gift packages;

(2) The separate gifts not exceeding \$100 in fair retail value in the country of shipment (\$200, in the case of articles sent from persons in the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa) included in the consolidated shipment are before shipment individually wrapped and addressed to the donee in the United States;

(3) Each gift package is marked on the outside to indicate that it contains a gift not exceeding \$100 in fair retail value in the country of shipment (\$200, in the case of packages sent from persons in the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa); and

(4) Each gift package is separately listed in the name of the addressee-donee on a packing list, manifest, bill of lading, or other shipping document.

(e) No alcoholic beverage, perfume containing alcohol (except where the aggregate fair retail value in the country of shipment of all merchandise contained in the shipment does not exceed \$5), cigars, or cigarettes shall be exempted from the payment of duty and tax under § 10.151 or § 10.152.

(f) The exemptions provided for in § 10.151 or § 10.152 are not to be allowed